

for cancer care for the 6th year in a row. While its innovative cancer research is most impressive, dedicated and knowledgeable staff are the reasons why it remains the number one center for cancer care.

It all starts at the top with Dr. Ronald DePinho. Dr. DePinho is an impressive individual. His main motivation is to provide the best care possible to patients while conducting creative research to dramatically reduce the number of deaths from cancer.

This year, MD Anderson will see its one-millionth patient since its doors opened in 1944. Each day lives are forever changed by the staff and the volunteers who are tenaciously determined to stop cancer.

And that's just the way it is.

KEEPING OUR WATERS HEALTHY AND FREE OF INVASIVE SPECIES IS A FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, a recent report issued by American and Canadian scientists for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans reveals alarming findings regarding the health of our Great Lakes.

The report warns that Asian carp are closer to entering the Great Lakes than we had anticipated. When introduction occurs, it will be irreversible and devastating to the ecology of the lakes and the economy of the region. This report is an urgent reminder that it is imperative that we intensify our efforts and act immediately to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Today, I, along with 15 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, sent a bipartisan letter to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers calling attention to this study, and urging swift action on the threat of the Asian carp to the Great Lakes environment.

Keeping our waters healthy and free of invasive species is a Federal responsibility. It's time to act—and to act now.

LET'S AUDIT THE FEDERAL RESERVE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. In 1989, I sponsored a bill, along with 11 other Democrats, to audit the Federal Reserve.

The Wall Street Journal wrote an editorial saying we would destroy the American economy if we audited the Federal Reserve. Well, guess what? Eighteen years later, Wall Street destroyed the economy of the United States of America—Wall Street, the big banks—and then they were bailed out secretly by the Federal Reserve. We don't know how many trillions of dollars the Federal Reserve committed

to them. We know their profits were billions, tens of billions on the bailout they got. So it's past time to audit the Federal Reserve.

Today we'll take up a bill, finally, RON PAUL's bill, to audit the Reserve. I strongly support it.

I also urge Members to support my bill, which would establish conflict-of-interest rules for the Federal Reserve and take the two-thirds of the Federal Reserve that is controlled by Wall Street banks, take those people off the board and put citizen representatives who represent the taxpayers and the consumers of the United States, not the big banks, on that board.

KEEP TAX RATES LOW FOR MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Government Accountability Office revealed that the debt ceiling crisis Republicans put this country through last August cost us taxpayers \$1.3 billion. Now, Americans are hearing that they may be put through that wringer again.

I hope my Republican friends would agree with me that the middle class families are the backbone of our economy. Keeping their taxes at their historically low rate is the best way to get our economy back on track.

Unfortunately, that middle class tax cut extension is under threat. My friends on the other side of the aisle are demanding, instead, that the super-rich get their tax breaks.

This isn't the way forward. We tried tax breaks for the rich and tax giveaways for the corporations during the Bush years. It didn't work.

Let's keep tax rates low for the middle class Americans and move this country forward.

DRILL, BABY, DRILL? WE HAVE, BABY, WE HAVE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, some claim the solution to America's energy concerns is "Drill, Baby, drill." Under President Obama, domestic oil and natural gas production increased every year, with the largest increase in the number of drilling rigs in American history. Domestic oil production last year was the highest in a decade, and natural gas production the highest ever in our history.

Under President Obama, we've reduced foreign oil imports by 1 million barrels of oil per day. Foreign oil dependence was 60 percent of U.S. consumption in 2005 under Bush. It's dropped to 49 percent in 2010 under Obama, and is now on pace to fall to 36 percent, reversing trends since the Nixon Presidency. By 2020, U.S. oil pro-

duction will be up 11 percent, rivaling the largest producer in the world, Saudi Arabia.

Under this President, U.S. oil production and exploration are booming, while foreign oil imports are plummeting.

The U.S. consumes 21 percent of the world's energy but contains 2 percent of proven oil reserves. That's why it's so imperative we follow President Obama's lead and pursue multiple sources of energy to meet our ever-expanding needs.

So to those who say, "Drill more," President Obama can respond, "We have, Baby, we have."

□ 1230

EXTEND MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, both sides agree on one thing: that we must reduce taxes on the group of Americans that fuels our economy. We disagree as to who this group is. Republicans believe that it is the wealthy 2 percent. Democrats believe that it is the 98 percent—the middle class—that fuels our economy.

The bottom line is: Do you believe that the economy is going to be revived top down? But really, it isn't. Rather, it's going to be a strong and secure middle class.

Today, the White House released some figures.

For Hawaii, my State, 500,000 families qualify as middle class. Do you know what it means? If we extend the middle class tax credits and tax breaks, it will mean \$1,600 more per family per year. More importantly, what does it mean for the super wealthy? If we let those tax breaks expire, like they should, we will be able to reduce the deficit by about \$1.16 trillion in 10 years.

This is a no-brainer. Extend the middle class tax credits for those who really fuel our economy, and expire the Bush tax cuts.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1315

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.